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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,446	07/12/2004	NORMAN D. LEVINE	9215.4803	4445
22235	7590	03/31/2006	EXAMINER	
MALIN HALEY AND DIMAGGIO, PA 1936 S ANDREWS AVENUE FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316			HARMON, CHRISTOPHER R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,446

Applicant(s)

LEVINE, NORMAN D.

Examiner

Christopher R. Harmon

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-18,30-37,40-44 and 48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,19-29,38,39 and 45-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of group III in the reply filed on 1/19/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claim 1 is generic and all searches are in class 493. This is not found persuasive because claim 1 was recognized as generic to all groups. The special technical feature of the invention common to all groups relied upon to show unity of invention is more than the scope covered by the limitations of claim 1 in view of Cann et al. 5,533,955 (see below) and therefore it is understood that applicant must be relying upon further limitations for patentability. These further limitations have been separated into groups I-V recognizing their divergent subject matter.

Claims 2-18, 30-37, 40-44, and 48 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to non-elected inventions.

Note: claim 40 is not included in group III as it is dependent upon claim 37 of group V.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 27-29, 38-39, 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 27 recites the limitation "at least partially enclosing an output and of the shredding mechanism" in line 3. This is improper and confusing.

Claim 38 recites the limitation "the means for spraying" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 45 recites "having elongated elements, pressure and..." (line 4). Pressure is not a structural element and is thus confusing and indefinite in describing the bottom portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 19, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cann et al. (US 5,533,955).

Cann et al. disclose apparatus for forming strips of material comprising shredding mechanism 12; perforated belt conveyor 48; and means 84 for producing suction connected to housing 70 considered to be placed at or beyond a discharge position 32 of the belt 48; see figures 1 and 4.

Regarding claims 38, Cann teaches spraying means 98.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3721

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cann et al. (US 5,533,955).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art provide a foot pedal switch because Applicant has not disclosed that such a switch provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with any switch because it would activate the spraying operation.

8. Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cann et al. (US 5,533,955) in view of Cann et al. (US 5,472,779).

Cann et al. '955 does not directly include a means for providing positive air flow other than the suction device 84, however Cann et al. '779 teach a housing comprising upper portion 52 with section 58 for providing for positive airflow above the strips; see figures 1 and 3. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the upper suction housing as taught by Cann '779 in the invention to Cann '955 in order to control the positive airflow above the strips. Cann '955 discloses providing a means for supplying positive pressure above the strips; see column 7, lines 5+.

9. Claims 20-27 and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cann et al. (US 5,533,955) in view of Campbell, Jr. et al. (US 5,156,075).

Cann et al. does not describe a means for creating a vortex, however Campbell, Jr. teach means for creating a vortex comprising a box 46 with rounded corners 54 and parallel interior elements 48, 50; fan 64; removable cover plate 36; see figures 1 and 2. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the vortex box of Campbell in the invention to Cann et al. for the adequate removal of undesirables. Note that Cann et al. recognize providing positive pressure above the strips; see column 7, lines 5+.

10. Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cann et al. (US 5,533,955) in view of Campbell, Jr. et al. (US 5,156,075). as applied to claims 20-27 above, and further in view of Ratzel (US 5,906,569).

The modified invention to Cann et al. does not further provide a suction means for producing suction within the shredding device however Ratzel discloses a similar apparatus for making dunnage strips comprising suction means 58 for producing suction within shredding device 22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the suction means of Ratzel in the modified invention to Cann et al. in order to remove cutting waste before the further cleaning process.

Conclusion

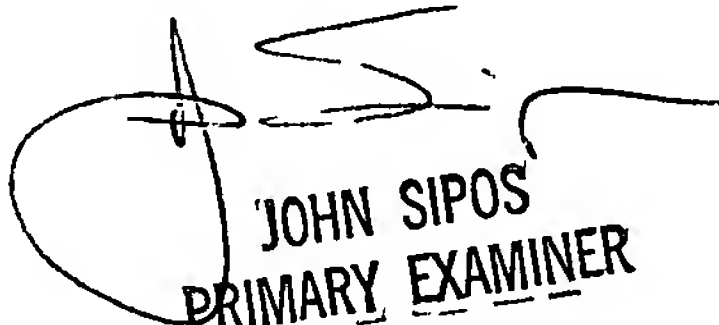
11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Harmon whose telephone number is (571) 272-4461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JOHN SIPOS
PRIMARY EXAMINER